FORMATTING METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR A DIRECT ACCESS STORAGE DEVICE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for transferring data between a read/write

10 transducer and a data storage medium involves encoding a first set of data
blocks of a data field according to a first coding constraint for storage on the
data storage medium. The data blocks have a predetermined block size. The
data field includes a last data block that stores fewer data bytes than that
accommodated by the predetermined block size. The last data block is

15 encoded according to a second coding constraint for storage on the data
storage medium, such that no pad bytes are required to complete encoding of
the last data block. The first set of data blocks transferred from the data
storage medium are decoded according to the first coding constraint, and the
last data block transferred from the data storage medium is decoded according

20 to the second coding constraint.